

## 13 - STOP Grant Match - DCI Safe Travels Task Force

Monday, January 25, 2016

10:27 AM



MARTY J. JACKLEY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
**DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**  
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Law Enforcement Training  
State Forensic Laboratory

October 12, 2015

Senator Deb Sohlt  
District 14  
Sioux Falls, SD

Dear Senator,

Thank you for taking the time last week to meet with me. I am committed to adding investigative resources where time and money allow as the fight for a safe childhood is paramount in keeping South Dakota a haven for healthy families.

As we discussed, I have been pursuing a STOP grant opportunity through our state's fiduciary, the Department of Social Services. Our application has been met with favor by Secretary Lynne Valenti to again provide three Victim Witness Specialists (an ongoing program) throughout South Dakota to victims of violent crimes, as well as new addition of a DCI Agent assigned to the FBI's Safe Trails Task Force.


In review, the DCI had earlier in 2011 and 2012 received federal funding through a different grant that allowed for 17 months of similar assignment through the FBI. It was a great success and wholly supported by the FBI as they utilized the DCI Agent on the reservations and adjacent state grounds to meet the investigative need for Child Sex Abuse cases referred to the FBI. As noted in their letter of testimony, the agent worked on 96 referrals and opened 20 federal cases. In addition, the Agent also opened 3 additional state cases.

I am confident that with the three year funding commitment I have received for this project from Secretary Valenti, we can quickly gain traction and provide a consistent positive outcome for these cases involving child sex abuse. I have seasoned agents that have stated interest in transferring to this position and are eager to work these cases and similarly see the positive effect of being a voice for these young victims.

The STOP grant opportunity needs a state match of 25%, or \$27,000 annually over the next three years of this grant position. I additionally need 1 FTE. Unfortunately my budget is too tight to accommodate the \$27,000 of general funds or FTE.

I sincerely appreciate any advocacy you can provide in this endeavor.

Thank you greatly,

  
Bryan Gortmaker, Director  
SD DCI



U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. 198-MP-CS824714-P

1501 Freeway Blvd.  
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota 55430  
(763) 569-8000  
October 9, 2015

Director Bryan Gortmaker  
SD Division of Criminal Investigation  
1302 E. Hwy. 14, Suite 5  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Bryan:

As mentioned in previous communications, the FBI will fully support the assignment of a South Dakota DCI Agent to investigate child sexual abuse cases in our surrounding reservations. The previous assignment of DCI Agent Chad Mosteller, funded by a similar federal grant, was a tremendous success. What follows are a few examples of how the assignment of a DCI Agent to our Pierre Resident Agency (RA) greatly assisted the investigation of these heinous crimes. An opportunity to duplicate these accomplishments would be beneficial in either the Pierre or Rapid City Resident Agencies.

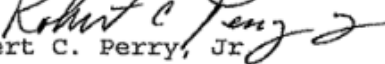
SA Mosteller was assigned to investigate felony child sexual abuse (CSA) crimes occurring within the Pierre FBI office's area of responsibility. The Pierre RA is comprised of 5 Special Agents primarily assigned to work violent criminal matters in Indian Country (IC). The difficult nature of this assignment directly contributes to the high turnover in our IC FBI Offices. The crime statistics for the reservations covered by our Pierre and Rapid City Offices are among the highest in the nation and are the highest in South Dakota. In 2010, the year SA Mosteller was assigned to work CSA cases, the Pierre FBI Office received 224 CSA referrals. It should be noted that these numbers do not include any adult sexual assaults or the multiple other serious felonies investigated by the Pierre RA. Most of these cases were historical CSA cases which are very difficult to successfully investigate. As a result, the investigation of these cases is often delayed. The addition of investigative resources specifically targeting CSA cases, provided by our previous partnership, increased overall responsiveness to these crimes and lowered the case loads which in turn allowed Agents to increase the quality of their CSA investigations.

During his 17 month assignment to the Pierre RA, SA Mosteller was assigned 96 CSA referrals and opened approximately 20 CSA cases which included two 2 child pornography cases. Although only 20 of the 96 referrals resulted in full investigations, it should be noted significant effort is put forth in each referral. Each had to be reviewed for investigative potential, this often included dedicated and targeted investigative activity. Often, many of the referrals from the various social services agencies are incomplete and, at times, inaccurate, as they are primarily based on information gathered at the time of intake, without the benefit of additional verification. In many instances, an instigator puts forth significant effort in simply validating the information in a referral. Aside from providing direct assistance to four Federal Indian Reservations, SA Mosteller indicted and arrested 6 suspects of child sexual abuse and additional cases initiated and investigated by him were successfully prosecuted after his departure.

The Pierre FBI office is considered a "hardship" office by the FBI. The designation of a "hardship" office is mostly due to the nature of the violent crime work, which includes CSA investigations. CSA investigations, as you well know, are some of the most difficult cases law enforcement handles. The willingness of the SD DCI to assist the Pierre RA investigate these difficult cases directly benefited the most vulnerable of victims in South Dakota. The FBI looks forward to once again working with the State of South Dakota in these difficult matters if the opportunity should arise. Any questions regarding this letter can be referred to ASAC Robert C. Perry, (605) 343-9632.

Sincerely,

SAC Richard T. Thornton  
Special Agent in Charge

By:   
Robert C. Perry, Jr.  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge